WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A thermosetting adhesive composition comprising a protein-based component and a polymeric quaternary amine cure accelerant.

2. The composition of claim 1, wherein said accelerant is the reaction product of a polyamidoamine and a halohydrin.

3. The composition of claim 2, wherein said halohydrin is epichlorohydrin.

4. The composition of claim 2, wherein said polyamidoamine is the reaction product of a polyamine and a polycarboxylic acid.

5. The composition of claim 1, wherein said composition is in an aqueous solution.

6. The composition of claim 2, wherein said polyamidoamine is chain-extended by reaction with a dialdehyde prior to reaction with epichlorohydrin.

7. The composition of claim 6, wherein said dialdehyde is glyoxal.

8. The composition of claim 1, wherein said protein-based component comprises soy protein.

9. The composition of claim 1, wherein said accelerant represents from about 10% to about 60% by weight of the combined amount of accelerant and protein-based component.

10. The composition of claim 1, further comprising a wax emulsion.

11. A method of making a thermosetting adhesive composition, said method comprising mixing a protein-based component with an aqueous solution of a polymeric quaternary amine cure accelerant.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein said protein-based component comprises soy protein in powder form.

13. The method of claim 11, wherein said protein-based component comprises soy protein suspended in an aqueous solution.

14. A thermosetting cellulosic composition comprising the thermosetting adhesive composition of claim 1 and a cellulosic material.

15. The thermosetting cellulosic composition of claim 14, wherein said cellulosic material comprises a wood element selected from the group consisting of wood flakes, wood strands, wood fibers, wood particles, wood layers and mixtures thereof.

16. The thermosetting cellulosic composition of claim 14, wherein said cellulosic material further comprises a plant fiber.

17. The thermosetting cellulosic composition of claim 14, wherein said cellulosic material is present in an amount from about 85% to about 98% by weight.

18. A method of making a wood composite, the method comprising:

(a) applying the composition of claim 1 to a cellulosic material to yield a thermosetting cellulosic composition, and

(b) consolidating said thermosetting cellulosic composition to yield said wood composite.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein said wood composite is particleboard or fiberboard.

20. The method of claim 18, wherein said consolidating step (b) comprises forming a mat from said thermosetting cellulosic composition and pressing

said mat at a temperature from about 170°C to about 190°C for a time from about 3 to about 10 minutes.